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CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division
Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Volume IV, Number 3

January 1, 1940

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Final check on crops harvested in 1939 indicates that production of all crops for food and feed was slightly under the 1938 level but above the 10-year average for the pre-drought period from 1923 to 1932. Part of these crops already has been marketed but in nearly all cases they also will be the major source of food supplies for the first half of 1940. Outlook for individual food products for 1940 now stands as follows:

Meats. Total supplies during 1940 are expected to be substantially larger than in 1939. Most of this increase is expected to occur in pork. Little change is in prospect for beef and lamb, but larger poultry supplies are expected. In the case of poultry and beef, supplies during the first half of 1940 may be larger than the same period in 1939, but during the last half of 1940 supplies probably will be below their 1939 level. Per capita production of federally inspected meats in 1940 will be above the levels of recent years and may equal the pre-drought production level from 1929-1933.

Eggs. Supplies during the entire 1940 season are expected to be above their 1939 level. The size of laying flocks during the year probably will be larger than in 1939.

Dairy Products. Total supplies available for consumption during the winter months are expected to be considerably smaller than a year earlier. Milk production may not differ much from the winter of 1939, but stocks of dairy products are smaller than they were last year.

Fresh Fruits. Apple supplies during the first half of 1940 may not differ much from last year. Grapefruit supplies are expected to be smaller than the record supplies of a year ago but otherwise the second largest of record. Supplies of oranges probably will be about the same as the record supplies last year. Lemon supplies most likely will be slightly below their 1939 high point, but still will be the third largest supplies we've had.

Canned Vegetables. Total supplies for the 1939-40 season are considerably smaller than the large supplies of the past two seasons, but are larger than amounts consumed in any recent year. Supplies of canned tomatoes probably won't differ much from a year ago, but decreases are in prospect for canned peas, canned corn, and canned string beans.

Nuts. Total supplies are expected to be substantially larger than last year. Marked increases over 1939 are in prospect for almonds, walnuts, filberts,

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and pecans. The almond and walnut crops just harvested were the second largest of record and the filbert crop was of record large size.

Fats and Oils. Supplies are expected to be substantially larger than in 1939, and may be the largest of record. Decreased production of cottonseed oil is expected to be more than offset by larger supplies of lard and other fats and oils.

Dried Fruits. Total supplies during the first half of 1940 may be larger than last year and considerably above usual domestic requirements. Prunes and raisins probably won't be as plentiful as last year but larger supplies of dried apples and apricots are in prospect.

Canned Fruits. Supplies for marketing the first half of 1940 are about the same or larger than last year. Cherries are expected to be more plentiful than a year earlier but supplies of peaches and pears are smaller.

Dried Beans and Rice. Dried beans probably won't be quite as plentiful as they were during the first half of 1939, but will be the second largest supply of record. Slightly larger amounts of rice are in prospect for the first six months of this year.

Wheat. Supplies available during the first half of 1940 probably won't be as plentiful as they were in 1939 when supplies were at high level. Supplies appear to be more than ample for prospective domestic consumption and exports, during the first half of 1940 and a large carryover at the end of the marketing season in June is expected.

First strawberries of the season from Florida have moved to market, and seasonal increases in supplies are expected during the first half of the year. Heavy shipments of berries, however, usually don't get underway until late March or April. Most strawberries marketed in January, February, and early March come from Florida. During the latter part of March, Louisiana, the largest single strawberry-producing State, starts marketing berries, and marked increases in shipments generally occur. Estimates of prospective production in Florida are not available as yet, but plantings of the earliest Florida crop are reported to be 20 percent smaller than last year and below average.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

No change was made in the list of foods designated as surplus agricultural commodities under the Food Stamp Plan, because these foods are abundant in supply. The list still includes these commodities:

BUTTER, EGGS, APPLES, FRESH PEARS, ORANGES, GRAPEFRUIT, RAISINS,
DRIED PRUNES, DRY BEANS, RICE, ONIONS (except green onions),
WHEAT FLOUR, WHOLE WHEAT (GRAHAM) FLOUR, CORN MEAL, HOMINY GRITS,
PORK PRODUCTS (including lard)

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

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January 15, 1940.

There have been no major changes in the food supply outlook during the past two weeks. Early January reports indicate that egg and milk production still are higher than last year and that the strawberry season is a little late in getting underway. More cattle and lamb than a year ago are reported on feed for marketing during the first half of the year. Winter vegetable supplies still appear to be smaller than last year.

Seasonal increases in marketings of winter vegetables are expected during the last half of January. Harvesting of these crops in the Southern and Far Western States, the source of fresh vegetables in the winter months, now is underway. Total supplies probably will be slightly smaller than last year even though they will be considerably above average. Production increases over 1939 are expected in snap beans, beets, carrots, cauliflower, and celery. But decreases from 1939 levels are in prospect for cabbage, lettuce, spinach, and the earliest crop of new potatoes.

Strawberries probably won't be as plentiful as they were last January and February. Production of berries in Florida, which is the sole source of supply during these months and in the early part of March, is expected to be nearly a third smaller than a year earlier. Ordinarily strawberry shipments in January are relatively small. But this year, shipments to date have been unusually small due to unfavorable growing conditions.

Potato supplies during the first quarter of 1940 most likely will be smaller than they were a year ago. But during the second quarter of the year there is a possibility that supplies may be larger than in 1939. From January to April, supplies consist principally of old potatoes which come from storage warehouses in the northern late potato-producing areas. During the second quarter of the year, new potatoes from the Southern States are the major source of supply. Storage stocks of old potatoes are believed to be smaller than they were last year. Estimates of new potato production for 1940 are not available as yet, but it is probable that southern farmers will increase their acreage this year. If yields are average or better, larger supplies than in 1939 are in prospect.

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Due to reduced export prospects for the first half of 1940 supplies of pears and apples available for domestic consumption are expected to be larger than the amount used in this country during the same period of 1939. This increase probably will be more marked in the case of apples than in pears. Pears and apples marketed during the first half of the year come from storage stocks. Current apple stocks are about the same as a year ago, but pear stocks are smaller. But the British embargo on imports of fresh pears and apples from the United States is expected to curtail considerably our exports of these products, and to leave available for domestic consumption the fruit that ordinarily would have been exported.

Better grade beef supplies during the first half of 1940 probably will be more plentiful than last year. The number of cattle on feed for market on January 1, which is a good indicator of prospective marketings of better grade beef, was the largest in recent years and among the largest amounts in the past 20 years. Marketings of better grade beef ordinarily increase seasonally during the first half of the year.

Hog supplies during the current marketing year which ends in September still are expected to be considerably larger than last year. But in the hog marketing year which begins October 1, 1940, supplies may drop below their level of the current season. A seasonal decrease in hog marketings is in prospect after the end of this month. However, supplies from January through March, the second quarter of the hog marketing season, are expected to be about as large as they were from October through December.

Most of the increase in lamb supplies over a year ago which is expected during the grain-fed lamb season (December through April) probably will come prior to March. The number of lambs on feed for market on January 1, was larger than last January. But most of this increase in number was in States which market their fed lambs early in the season.

Egg production has continued at record high levels. On January 1, total production was about a tenth larger than last year and 40 percent above the average production level of the past 10 years. The outlook for 1940 still is for larger egg supplies than last year. Egg production ordinarily increases seasonally during the first part of the year and reaches its peak in April or May.

Butter production in recent months has been smaller than last year and it seems likely that production during the remainder of the winter will continue smaller than a year earlier. Production, however, probably will be above the average level of recent years. Milk production has been larger than last year. But larger consumption of fluid milk and cream than last year probably accounts for the reduced butter production. Ordinarily butter prices decline during the first half of the year. This year the seasonal price increase has continued through January.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

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Volume IV, Number 5

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February 1, 1940.

Outstanding development in the food supply situation during the last half of January was the unusually cold weather which has reduced prospective supplies of citrus fruits and winter vegetables, and has checked temporarily the seasonal increases in egg and milk production which generally occur at this time of the year. The exact extent of the damage due to the cold spell is not known as yet. Damage due to freezing weather is difficult to measure because no two frosts are alike and each crop responds differently to a freeze. However, the major effect of the current freeze at present appears to be a marked curtailment during most of February of vegetable shipments from the important winter vegetable producing areas in the Southern states. These areas, together with California, are the sole domestic source of green vegetables during the winter months.

Vegetable crops in Florida and Texas are reported to have been damaged severely by the cold wave, but California crops were not affected. The damage to crops which were being grown for harvest in the late winter probably will be offset to some extent by replantings, which will mean a later marketing season for these crops. But in cases where crops were ready for shipment, the freeze will result in curtailment of shipments for several weeks until later maturing crops are available. Prior to the freeze, production of winter vegetables was expected to be slightly smaller than last year. During February, Florida is an important source of supply for snap beans, new cabbage, celery, green peas, green peppers, new potatoes and tomatoes. Texas furnishes the bulk of beets and spinach and large quantities of cabbage shipped to market in February. And California, which was not affected by the cold spell, is an important source of supply for carrots, celery and lettuce.

Latest report on freeze damage issued by the Department of Agriculture indicates that in Florida practically all tender vegetables (such as green peas, tomatoes, snap beans, and peppers) were destroyed while the more hardy crops (such as celery and cabbage) were damaged severely. The Florida new potato crop which was expected to be ready for shipment in mid-February, also was destroyed. Shipments of Florida strawberries are expected to be limited for 3 or 4 weeks and no Florida tomatoes or peppers are expected to move to market in February and all or part of March. In Texas, spinach was not injured by the freeze, but the growth of the crop was retarded. Beet tops were badly damaged but the roots escaped injury. Texas cabbage shipments in February are expected to be reduced because the freeze split cabbage heads and caused leaves to turn brown.

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Citrus fruits in Florida and Texas also are reported to have been damaged severely by the freeze, but the exact extent of the damage won't be known for about 10 days. No crop damage has been reported from California, which produces about half of the annual orange supply, and all domestic lemons. Prior to the freeze the current crops of oranges and grapefruit were expected to be the second largest of record, and considerably above average. About 45 percent of the grapefruit crop was expected to come from Florida, and an additional 40 percent from Texas. In the case of oranges, Florida production was expected to amount to about 45 percent of the total crop and Texas production to around 3 percent.

Increases in egg and butter prices which often occur in January when the weather turns very cold, ordinarily are temporary price increases. As soon as the weather turns warmer, egg production begins to increase seasonally again. Cold weather generally affects egg prices more than butter prices. This is due to the fact that cold weather not only reduces egg production per hen but delays shipments to markets, making it difficult to obtain top grade eggs.

Onion supplies during the remainder of the winter are expected to be larger than last year. This spring, however, there are prospects of a smaller supply than in 1939. During the winter months onion supplies consist mainly of late crop onions, harvested in the fall and placed in storage for marketing up through the spring months when the new onion crop becomes available. Storage holdings of onions on January 1 were about a fifth larger than last year and the largest of record. The spring onion crop probably won't be as large as a year ago because of a reduced acreage, and the crop may be a little later than usual due to recent unfavorable weather.

Cabbage supplies during February probably will be smaller than they were a year ago. During this month supplies consist of new cabbage from the southern states, and late crop cabbage from storage warehouses in the northern producing areas. Prior to the freeze, production of the earliest maturing varieties of new cabbage was expected to be smaller than last year. Stocks of late crop cabbage on January 1 were reported to be about half their 1939 level, and the third smallest on record. New cabbage differs from late crop cabbage in color and shape of head. New cabbage generally has smooth, deep green leaves and the heads are conical or pointed. Freshness of appearance, which is an important quality factor to check in buying new cabbage, is not as important a guide in buying good old crop cabbage.

Except for citrus fruits and winter vegetables, the food supply outlook for February compared to a year ago is about the same as the picture in January. Poultry, eggs, better grade beef, pork and lamb are expected to be more plentiful than last February. Smaller supplies of strawberries, butter and lower grade beef than in 1939 are in prospect. Supplies of apples and pears available for domestic consumption during February and the rest of the first half of 1940 are expected to be larger than the amounts used in this country during the same period of 1939. Ordinarily strawberries, eggs, butter, and better grade beef are more plentiful in February than in January, while poultry and pork are less plentiful.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

February 15, 1940

Outstanding element in the food supply situation during the first half of February again was the reduced supplies of oranges, grapefruit, strawberries, and a number of winter vegetables due to the January freeze. The return of warmer weather altered the egg and milk supply situation, and production of these products, which had been checked by cold weather, resumed its seasonal upward course. No change occurred in the meat supply outlook and it still appears that meat, particularly pork, will be more plentiful than last February. Asparagus season is expected to get underway during the last half of the month with first shipments from California.

Nearly 8 million boxes of oranges, or about a tenth of the entire crop, are reported to have been destroyed by the recent freeze. This estimate is preliminary and will be rechecked as soon as the effects of the freeze become more definitely known. Bulk of the damage to oranges occurred in Florida which, prior to the freeze, was expected to furnish nearly half our orange supply. Florida produces two major crops of oranges, early or midseason oranges, most of which are shipped prior to the end of February, and Valencia oranges, which comprise the bulk of Florida shipments from February until the Florida season ends in July. The freeze is estimated to have damaged nearly two-thirds of the unharvested early and midseason oranges, and around a third of the Valencia crop. The damage to the remaining Florida crop will slightly exceed a third, for nearly all of the early and mid-season oranges have been shipped and Valencias constitute most of those left.

Due to the freeze damage it appears that orange supplies available for marketing up through June probably will be considerably smaller than last year. Supplies from California, which were not affected by the freeze, are expected to be slightly smaller than last year. But the reduction in supplies is expected to occur mainly in Florida oranges. From June to October, when the bulk of shipments consists of California Valencia oranges, supplies probably will be about the same as a year ago.

The embargo on Florida citrus marketings which went into effect on February 1, to prevent shipment of frozen citrus, expired on February 8. All current shipments are being checked by Federal and State inspectors to insure that only good fruit is sold. Marketing regulations adopted under a Federal Marketing Agreement, now permit the shipment of all oranges and grapefruit grading U. S. No. 3 or better. Regulations in effect prior to the freeze permitted only oranges and grapefruit grading U. S. #2 or better to be shipped.

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Grapefruit production was reduced nearly 6 million boxes by the freeze and the total crop now is expected to be about 30 percent smaller than last year. The crop damage was distributed about equally between Florida and Texas. Prior to the freeze about 45 percent of the 1939-40 grapefruit crop was expected to be produced in Florida, and an additional 40 percent in Texas.

Winter vegetable supplies during the next two months probably will be considerably smaller than last year, and well below prospects for 1940 prior to the freeze. Some of the acreage destroyed by the freeze in the Southern States has been replanted, but these crops will mature later than usual. As a result marketings of truck crops in April and May probably will be unusually heavy because of delayed marketings of these replanted crops.

The winter snap bean crop in Florida, which is the principal source of supplies in February, March, and April, is now expected to be about half as large as last year. Nearly two million bushels, two thirds of the crop, which had not been harvested prior to the freeze were destroyed in late January. Consequently supplies are expected to be extremely limited until the acreage that was replanted following the freeze is available for harvest in mid-March.

About 40 percent of the Texas beet crop, the principal source of supplies from February through April was destroyed by the freeze. Most of the loss was due to frozen tops. The crop now is expected to be about a third smaller than last year and considerably below average.

Strawberry production prospects in Florida have been reduced about 20 percent because of the freeze. Florida ships the bulk of berries marketed from February through March. The 1940 crop now is expected to be only about half of that last year and below average.

Egg and milk production appears to have resumed its seasonal upward course which was interrupted temporarily by the January cold spell. Egg production ordinarily increases between January 1 and February 1, but this year production dropped sharply. While milk production increased during the same period, the gain was the smallest for any recent year except 1937.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

No change has been made recently in the list of foods designated by the Department as "Surplus Agricultural Commodities" under the Food Order Stamp Plan. These foods are:

APPLES, FRESH PEARS, GRAPEFRUIT, ORANGES, BUTTER, EGGS, PORK
PRODUCTS (including lard), DRY BEANS, DRIED PRUNES, RAISINS,
ONIONS, WHEAT FLOUR, WHOLE WHEAT (graham) FLOUR, RICE, HOMINY
GRITS, CORN MEAL

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

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Volume IV, Number 7

U. S. Department of Agriculture

March 1, 1940

Seasonal increase in winter vegetable supplies which generally comes in March probably will be smaller than usual this year due to the damage caused by freezing weather in late January. Strawberry shipments, which have been relatively small because of the cold spell, are expected to show some increase in March because a new set of berries will be available for shipment but berries probably won't be as plentiful as last year. Supplies of citrus fruits, dairy products, and most vegetables most likely will be smaller than last March. But the outlook is for much more pork, better grade beef, eggs, and poultry (including turkeys) than a year ago.

Additional reports on the extent of freeze damage to winter vegetable crops indicate that while the damage was quite extensive, it was not as large as seemed probable immediately after the freeze in the case of the more hardy vegetables. Domestic supplies, however, are expected to be considerably smaller than last year, with the reductions most pronounced in snap beans, peppers, tomatoes, new potatoes, and cucumbers. Cabbage and spinach also were hurt by the freeze but the freeze damage was relatively small.

A small acreage of snap beans in Florida is reported to have escaped with but slight damage during the cold wave, and this acreage will be the source of limited supplies in March. About the end of March, and during April snap beans from acreage replanted after the freeze will be available, and increases in supplies are in prospect. There are no nearby foreign sources which can ship in snap beans to augment the drastically reduced domestic supplies.

While supplies of Florida tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers available for marketing in March were practically wiped out by the freeze, supplies of these products from foreign countries, principally Cuba, will be available in markets this month. In the case of tomatoes, domestic supplies, outside of small shipments from California, are expected until April. No domestic cucumber supplies are expected until April. There is a considerable acreage of partly frosted pepper plants in poor condition in Florida, but there is little prospect of getting a crop from these plants.

New potato marketings this month probably will be considerably smaller than last year due to the freeze. However, supplies of old potatoes, which still are the major source of potato supplies in March,

(OVER)

probably won't differ much from a year ago. New potato supplies in March come principally from Florida. The current Florida crop is slightly less than half as large as it was last year.

Marketings of asparagus are expected to increase seasonally this month. Asparagus season ordinarily runs from late February or early March through July. In March and April, California is the principal source of supply. But in May and June asparagus comes mainly from eastern producing areas. No estimate of the size of the asparagus crop in California is available as yet. Part of this crop is canned, and the amount available for shipment to markets is affected by cannery operations.

Asparagus ages rapidly after it is cut. The fresher the stalks the tenderer they are. Fresh stalks are brittle and easily punctured. Wilted ones have spreading tips. Wilted stalks often may be freshened by being placed in water, but ordinarily only the tips are edible. White asparagus is said to have a milder flavor than green asparagus. Both grow from similar plants but the green asparagus is cut after the whole stalk grows above ground whereas white asparagus is cut when the tip of the growing spear appears above ground.

There have been no further official reports since that given in the last issue of the Market Service on the extent of citrus damage caused by the January cold spell. Orange and grapefruit supplies this month probably will continue smaller than last year. The amount of grapefruit available for market during the remainder of the current season, still is expected to be about 35 percent smaller than last year. Supplies of winter oranges available for marketing between February and mid-May, probably will be about 30 percent less than a year ago.

Peach production prospects in some of the States marketing peaches primarily in August and September are reported to have been reduced drastically by the January cold wave. However, it is still too early to determine the exact extent of the damage.

Meat supplies in March probably will be considerably larger than last year. Most of the increase is expected in pork and better grade beef, but poultry, (including turkeys) also will be more plentiful. Smaller supplies of lower grade beef than last March are in prospect but lamb supplies may not differ much from last year. Marketings of hogs, lamb, and poultry ordinarily decrease in March but better grade cattle marketings increase. Heavy hog slaughter in recent months has resulted in the storage of large quantities of lard, and lard storage holdings on February 1, were the largest for this date on record.

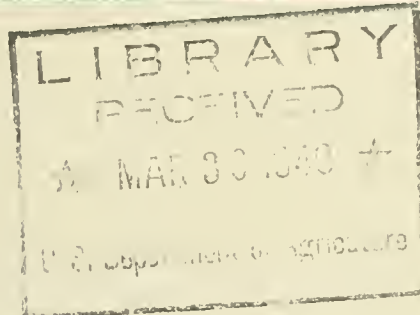
Milk production in March is expected to continue smaller than last year, but to be relatively large compared with other recent years. Storage stocks of manufactured dairy products are smaller than last year and it appears that total supplies will continue below their 1939 level. Milk production ordinarily increases seasonally through June.

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March 15, 1940.

Supplies of lima beans, snap beans, beets, cucumbers, egg-plant, okra, peppers, squash, and tomatoes, which have been relatively small in recent weeks, are expected to continue scarce for at least another month. Unfavorable weather conditions have retarded the growth of vegetable crops and have delayed planting for spring and summer harvest. These conditions are expected to result in later than usual marketings of many vegetable crops. Consequently vegetable supplies in April are expected to be below usual levels, whereas those in May and June probably will be unusually large.

Outlook for winter and spring orange supplies has been revised and it now appears that the decrease from last March, April and May will be a little bigger than seemed probable a month ago. The estimate of Florida winter and spring orange crop has been revised downward by about 2 million boxes. This reduction, however, has been partly offset by an increase of 1.3 million boxes in the prospective winter and spring crop in California. The outlook for summer oranges, which are marketed mainly after May, has not changed and supplies still are expected to be only a little smaller than they were in 1939.

Extremely limited domestic supplies of tomatoes are in prospect for the remainder of this month, but an increase in supplies is expected in April when spring tomatoes from Florida are ready for shipment. Despite this seasonal increase, supplies in April will be much smaller than last year since the acreage for harvest in Florida is only about a third of its 1939 level. Heavy shipments of these Florida spring crop tomatoes are not expected until May.

New potato supplies are expected to continue relatively small until the latter part of April, and probably won't be as plentiful as they were last year. Ordinarily new potato supplies increase seasonally at this time of the year, and by mid-May supplant old potatoes as the major source of potato supplies. This year the seasonal increase in March and early April probably will be smaller than usual. Freezing weather severely damaged the new potato crop in Florida

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which is the major source of supply during March. Unfavorable growing conditions are expected to delay marketings of new potatoes from areas which ship primarily in April. The outlook for old potato supplies has not changed in recent weeks, and supplies still are expected to be about the same as they were last March and April.

Strawberry supplies during the remainder of March probably won't be as plentiful as they were last year. But during April supplies may not differ much from their 1939 level. In April, Alabama and Louisiana replace Florida as the principal source of supply. Supplies ordinarily increase seasonally as strawberries become available from more producing areas. Louisiana, which is the largest strawberry producing area, markets its berries usually from mid-March to mid-May.

Asparagus may be more plentiful than last year, during the next few months. Production in States marketing asparagus at this time of the year is expected to be about a tenth larger than in 1939. Bulk of this early asparagus crop comes from California. Only about one-third of the California crop ordinarily is marketed for consumption in fresh state and the amount taken by canneries varies considerably each year. Consequently it is not definitely known whether the increase in production this year will result in larger fresh marketings, or larger processing operations.

This year's spring lamb crop is not expected to differ much from that of a year ago. But more spring lambs than a year ago will be available for market prior to July 1. Spring lambs generally start moving to market in April but marketings ordinarily aren't large until May or June. During March and April, when lamb supplies consist principally of grain-fed lambs, the outlook still is for slightly smaller total lamb supplies than last year. Lamb supplies usually are smallest during the spring and early summer months.

A seasonal increase in pork supplies is in prospect the next month, or so when fall pigs start moving to market. Pork supplies since the start of the marketing year last October have been much larger than a year ago due to a big spring pig crop. The fall pig crop likewise is larger than last year. Thus it appears that pork will continue more plentiful than a year ago during the rest of the current season.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

No change has been made recently in the list of foods designated by the Department as "Surplus Agricultural Commodities" under the Food Order Stamp Plan. These foods are:

APPLES, FRESH PEARS, GRAPEFRUIT, ORANGES;
BUTTER, EGGS, PORK PRODUCTS(including lard);
DRY BEANS, DRIED PRUNES, RAISINS, ONIONS;
WHEAT FLOUR, WHOLE WHEAT (graham) FLOUR, RICE,
HOMINY GRITS, CORN MEAL.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

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Volume IV, Number 9.

U. S. Department of Agriculture

April 1, 1940.

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Vegetable supplies during April are expected to be larger than in March, but supplies in general probably will be smaller than they were a year ago. Part of the spring vegetable crops that were planted for April marketing were destroyed by the cold spell early this year. Farmers replanted many of these crops, but unfavorable weather conditions have delayed their growth. Consequently, some of the spring vegetables that ordinarily are marketed in April, may not move to market until May this year. As a result of these delayed marketings and lower yields, April supplies must likely will be below their usual levels.

Most of the seasonal increase in domestically produced vegetable supplies in prospect for April is expected to come during the last half of the month. Florida ordinarily is the principal supply of many spring vegetables during April. Very few Florida cucumbers, limited supplies of Florida tomatoes, and relatively small supplies of Florida lima beans, are expected until after mid-April. Some Florida snap beans, in limited quantities, may be available during the early part of April. Shipments of Florida new potatoes probably won't be large until the latter part of the month.

Outlook for meat supplies for April is about the same as that for March. Better grade beef and pork probably will be more plentiful than last April. But smaller supplies of lamb and lower grade beef are in prospect. First spring lambs of the season were marketed in March, and a seasonal increase in supplies this month is expected. The seasonal increase in hog marketings which ordinarily occurs each spring may commence during the latter part of April, or early May.

Fruit supply picture hasn't changed much in the past two weeks. Orange and grapefruit supplies still are expected to be much smaller than last April. Pears and apples probably will be more plentiful than a year ago. Orange supplies during April consist principally of Florida Valencia and California Navel oranges. Beginning in May and continuing through October, most of the oranges marketed are California Valencias. This year's crop of California Valencias is slightly larger than the 1939 crop.

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Asparagus shipments from California are expected to reach their season's high point this month. Heavier shipments from Georgia and South Carolina also are in prospect for April. Bulk of asparagus marketed in April comes from California. The California crop is larger than last year, but it is not known whether this increase will result in larger marketings in fresh form, or larger canning operations. The crop in Georgia is a little smaller than last year, but a bigger South Carolina crop is in prospect.

Strawberries are expected to be much more plentiful in April than they were in March. Louisiana, the largest single berry producing State, is the principal source of strawberry supplies in April. First Louisiana berries moved to market in late March, and production this year is expected to be about the same as last year. First shipments of Alabama berries are expected to reach markets early this month and during the latter part of April heavy shipments are in prospect. The current Alabama crop is much larger than last year. Strawberry shipments from Florida are expected to continue during the first part of April, but the Florida season ordinarily draws to a close in April.

Eggs ordinarily are more plentiful in April than any other month of the year. This April supplies are expected to be considerably larger than a year ago. Due to recent relatively low prices, the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation has been purchasing eggs for distribution to people on relief.

Poultry supplies in April probably won't be as large as they were last month, but they most likely will be bigger than last April. The outlook is for more turkey and fowl (poultry over a year old) than in 1939, but less chickens. First chickens from the 1940 spring hatch are expected to move to market in May and a seasonal increase in supplies is in prospect during May and June.

Milk production in April is expected to continue at record or close to record high levels. Nevertheless total supplies of dairy products probably will remain smaller than a year ago since storage stocks are smaller than they were in 1939. In March evaporated milk was the only major dairy product in which stocks were above their 1939 level. In view of the prospective large milk production in the next few months, production of manufactured dairy products is likely to continue high in relation to most recent years.

CONSUMERS' MARKET SERVICE

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Volume IV, Number 10

★ MAY 18 1940 ★
U.S. Department of Agriculture

April 15, 1940

Food supply picture has not changed materially during the past two weeks. Supplies of beef, pork, eggs, and poultry, during the next two weeks still are expected to be above their 1939 level whereas smaller supplies of oranges, grapefruit, new potatoes, lamb, spring vegetables, and butter are in prospect. Little change from levels of last April is expected in supplies of strawberries. Recent developments in hostilities in Europe are not expected to result in any immediate change in export prospects for food supplies from the United States, and thus have not affected the food supply outlook.

Prospects for small exports of food supplies from the United States to Europe during the remainder of the current marketing season are not expected to be altered by the German occupation of Denmark. In recent years Denmark has supplied the United Kingdom with about half of the eggs and cured pork it imported and with about one-fourth of its butter imports. Even though Danish supplies now are cut off, there is little immediate prospect that exports from the United States will be needed to replace them to any great extent. The British are expected to rely on Empire sources of supply or on stocks already built up. It also seems likely that a forced further reduction in British consumption will occur before additional foodstuffs are purchased from the United States, due to the desire to conserve dollar exchange.

Unfavorable weather conditions in recent weeks have further curtailed production of spring vegetable crops, and the outlook still is for smaller total supplies than last year. But a seasonal increase in supplies during the last half of this month, as well as in May, is expected. Supplies of lima beans, bermuda onions, and peas are expected to be only about half as large as they were last spring while snap bean supplies probably will be about 25 percent smaller. Slight decreases in cabbage and celery supplies, and increases of around 10 percent in spinach, carrot, and beet supplies also are in prospect.

New potato supplies during the last half of this month are expected to be larger than they were the past two weeks. However, supplies probably will continue smaller than they were in 1939. Ordinarily supplies of old potatoes decrease seasonally at this time of the year, as the season draws to a close, whereas supplies of new potatoes increase. Due to the late maturity of the new potato crop this year there is some possibility that marketings may not increase at a fast enough rate to offset fully the effect of decreasing supplies of old potatoes.

(OVER)

Asparagus shipments from California, where most of the supply now being marketed is produced, appear to have reached their peak in early April, and are expected to decrease seasonally during the remainder of the month. New Jersey crop, which is an important source of supply in May and June, is reported to be maturing later than usual, and first shipments are not expected until about the first of May. The California crop available for canning and marketing in fresh state is larger than last year. No report on the size of supplies for May and June marketing is available as yet, but the acreage planted in areas shipping during these months is slightly larger than in 1939.

Strawberry supplies during the remainder of April and in May probably won't differ much from last year. Shipments from Louisiana, the most important source of supply during the last half of April, are expected to reach their peak in about a week. During the last half of the month berries will be available also from Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Arkansas. Ordinarily berry supplies increase weekly at this time of the year, and reach their peak in the latter part of May or early June.

Cantaloups probably won't be as plentiful as they were last April, May, and June. Supplies during this period come primarily from the Imperial Valley in California. No report on production prospects is available as yet, but in view of a 20 percent reduction in acreage from 1939, smaller supplies seem probable. Cantaloup season ordinarily runs from April through October, and California shipments are heaviest in June.

Large hog marketings in recent months have resulted in accumulation of unusually big storage holdings of lard. On April 1, lard storage stocks amounted to 270 million pounds, the largest they have ever been on the first of any month. Stocks were more than twice as large as a year ago, and substantially above April levels of recent years. Due to these large stocks, and the prospect of large hog marketings during the remainder of the current season, the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation has been purchasing lard for distribution to people on relief.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

Onions have been removed from the list of foods designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as "surplus agricultural commodities" under the Food Stamp Plan. The season for late crop onions, which were harvested last fall and stored for marketing in the winter and early spring months is nearing its end. Due to shortened supplies of these onions, and prospects for a delayed marketing of a small spring onion crop, onion prices have advanced sharply recently. The 16 commodities still designated as "surplus," are as follows:

PEARS, APPLES, ORANGES, GRAPEFRUIT;
BUTTER, EGGS, PORK PRODUCTS (including Lard);
DRIED PRUNES, DRIED BEANS, RAISINS;
CORN MEAL, HOMINY GRITS, RICE, WHEAT
FLOUR, WHOLE WHEAT (Graham) FLOUR.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

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122cm
Volume IV, Number 11

★ MAY 11 1940 ★

U.S. Department of Agriculture

May 1, 1940

Vegetable production, which has been hampered by unfavorable weather this year, suffered another setback in mid-April due to a cold wave of severe intensity. These low temperatures also are reported to have damaged the Georgia peach crop, source of most of the table variety of peaches which are marketed from May to July. Extent of the damage to the peach crop is not known definitely as yet.

A marked improvement in the tomato supply situation is in prospect for May primarily after the middle of the month. Supplies in May are expected to be larger than in April but won't be as plentiful as they were last year. This seasonal increase is expected to come mainly after May 10, when harvesting of the crop in the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, and in North Florida gets underway. These supplies will augment those now moving from the Imperial Valley of California. The crop in prospect for these three areas is expected to be about 15 percent smaller than last year. Small supplies of tomatoes in recent weeks have been the result of unfavorable weather conditions which reduced production in South Florida, principal domestic source of supply from January to May to about one third its usual level, and delayed the start of harvest of the crop to mid-April.

Outlook for vegetable supplies as a group for May still is for supplies smaller than a year ago even though supplies are expected to be above their April level. The decreases are expected to be more pronounced in the tender items than in the more hardy vegetables.

Variety of fresh fruits, berries, and melons available in markets ordinarily increases in May as new items start moving to markets. In the fruits, cherries and peaches are the new additions. Blueberries, huckleberries, dewberries, blackberries, and raspberries augment supplies of strawberries. First watermelons of the season generally move to market in May, but this year the season is several weeks late due to unfavorable weather.

Shipments of California valencia oranges have increased in recent weeks and further seasonal increases in supplies are expected until marketings reach their peak in June and July. These oranges are the major source of supply in May, and from June through October comprise the bulk of orange marketings. Supplies of both Florida oranges and California navels decrease seasonally at this time of the year. The season for navels ordinarily ends in June, whereas Florida marketings run through July. The Florida season may end a little earlier than

(OVER)

usual this year due to the supply reduction caused by the January freeze. Outlook still is for smaller supplies of Florida oranges, about the same supplies of navels, but slightly larger supplies of California valencias than last year.

Florida grapefruit season is drawing to a close. Supplies in May ordinarily are below April levels, and then drop off sharply in June and July. During the summer months, grapefruit continue to be available in markets but they come mainly from California or are imported. Supplies during May are still expected to be smaller than last year.

Strawberries may not be quite as plentiful as they were during the first two weeks of May last year. The cold wave in mid-April damaged the crop in areas shipping primarily in this period, curtailed production, and thus resulted in a shift in the outlook.

First fresh corn of the season ordinarily moves to market in May, but this year first shipments are expected to be several weeks later than usual. Fresh corn season generally runs from May through October, with supplies most plentiful in August.

Source of asparagus supplies shifts to The Northern producing states in May. Shipments from California, South Carolina and Georgia which supplied markets in April have reached their peak and are expected to decline in May.

Butter supplies in May are expected to continue smaller than a year ago. Supplies generally increase during the first half of the year, with the peak ordinarily being reached in June.

Plentiful meat supplies is the outlook for May. Not only are supplies of pork and better grade beef expected to be above their level of a year ago, but also larger supplies of lamb are in prospect. Most of the increase in supplies over 1939 still is expected to occur in pork. Meat slaughter in May is generally larger than in April.

Egg supplies this month may not equal their April peak level, but they are expected to be larger than last year. The outlook now is for egg supplies to drop below their 1937 level during the last half of this year.

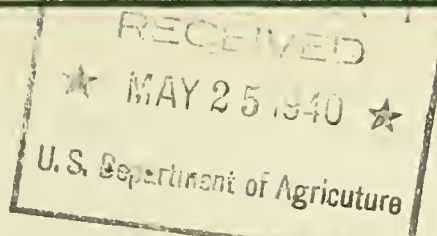
CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

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Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Volume IV, Number 12

May 15, 1940.



Outlook for fruit supplies for 1940, is for average supplies of apples, cherries, grapes, pears, and plums, and below average supplies of apricots and peaches. Orange supplies through the early summer are still expected to continue smaller than last year, but during the later summer months they probably will be more plentiful than in 1939.

Vegetable supply situation has not changed materially in the past two weeks. Supplies still are expected to remain below last year's relatively high level during the rest of May and in June. But during this period, seasonal increases in supplies are in prospect.

Asparagus supplies during the rest of the season, which ends in July, are expected to be more plentiful than last year. Production in the States which ship asparagus during this period is about 10 percent larger than last year. Washington State and New Jersey are the two principal sources of supply of late crop asparagus.

Seasonal increase in new potato supplies is in prospect during the rest of May and the early part of June. Supplies during this period may be slightly larger than last year. Season for old potatoes is drawing to a close, and remaining supplies are being used up rapidly.

Melon supplies during the last half of May are not expected to come up to last year's level. Cantaloup production in California, which is the principal source of supply in May and June, is about one-fourth smaller than in 1939. Watermelon production in California and Florida, which furnish most of the watermelons shipped prior to July, is slightly larger than last year. The production increase over 1939 is entirely in Florida. However, the Florida crop is maturing later than usual. First shipments from Florida are not expected until about the first of June. First California watermelons were shipped in early May.

Peach supplies during June and July probably will be considerably smaller than last year. Supplies during this period come mainly from the southern States, with Georgia, Arkansas, Texas, South Carolina, and North Carolina, the leading sources. Due to unfavorable weather, the crop in this area is expected to be about 30 percent smaller than last year, and below average. First Georgia peaches are expected to be shipped the end of May.

(OVER)

Strawberry supplies ordinarily reach their peak in late May or early June. During the early part of the current season supplies were smaller than last year. It now seems likely that supplies during the last half of May will be larger than in 1939. Strawberry season generally ends in July, with June being the last month of heavy shipments.

Pack of canned vegetables this year may exceed that in 1939, in view of larger prospective crops of vegetables for canning. Current stocks of canned vegetables remaining from the 1939 pack, however, are smaller than a year ago. It is too early as yet to determine how total supplies will compare with last year.

Chicken supplies are expected to increase seasonally during the next two months as marketing of broilers and fryers from this year's spring hatch gets under way. Due to a smaller hatch than last year, and to smaller storage holdings, supplies this spring and summer probably will be considerably smaller than last year. First broilers from the spring hatch ordinarily are available in May, while fryers start moving to market in June. Even though chicken supplies this month will be smaller than last year, supplies of turkeys and fowl are expected to be above 1939 levels.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

No change was made during the past month in the list of foods designated as "surplus commodities" under the Food Stamp Plan. On May 15, the foods included in this list were:

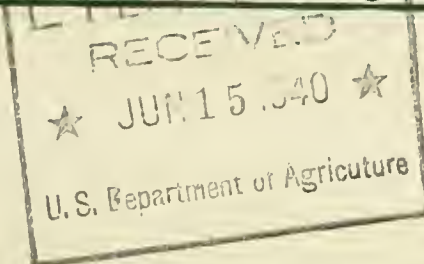
PEARS, APPLES, ORANGES, GRAPEFRUIT;
BUTTER, EGGS, PORK PRODUCTS (including Lard);
DRIED PRUNES, DRIED BEANS, RAISINS;
CORN MEAL, HOMINY GRITS, RICE, WHEAT
FLOUR, WHOLE WHEAT (Graham) FLOUR.

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CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

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Volume IV, Number 13



June 1, 1940.

Fruit supplies this summer may not be as large as last year. Considerably smaller crops of early peaches, apricots, and sweet cherries than in 1939, are expected. The plum and grape crops are expected to be only about average in size. However, California Valencia oranges probably will be more plentiful than last year. First apricots, peaches, and plums of the season moved to market during the last week in May, and seasonal increases in supplies are expected in June. Cherry shipments from California are expected to reach their seasonal peak this month. Grape shipments ordinarily do not commence until late June or early July. Marketings of California Valencia oranges usually are heaviest in June and July, and then decline through November.

Export prospects for farm supplies have been further reduced by the spread of war in Europe. A relatively small volume of exports, below usual levels, is in prospect for the next few months.

Marketings of fresh vegetables have increased seasonally in recent weeks and a further seasonal expansion is in prospect during June and July. Despite this seasonal increase, June supplies in general probably will be below their 1939 level. The acreage planted to vegetables, which will be ready for marketing during this period, is slightly smaller than last year. Snap beans, cucumbers, cabbage, celery, egg plant, onions and peppers are not expected to be as plentiful as they were last June. But larger supplies of asparagus, carrots, lettuce, green peas, spinach, and tomatoes than in 1939 are in prospect. These supply prospects refer to the United States in general. In some areas, the supply situation may differ from the general picture due to local conditions.

Tomato supplies, which were relatively small up until a month ago, are expected to increase substantially in June, and may be larger than a year ago after the first week in June. Supplies during this month come principally from Texas, Mississippi, Georgia, South Carolina, and Louisiana, and the crop in these States is about 4 percent larger than last year. Heavy shipments from these States are expected about June 10.

New potato supplies in June and July may be somewhat larger than last year. But this increase will be partly offset by the fact that remaining stocks of old potatoes are smaller than in 1939. Potato crops are maturing several weeks later than usual. There is some possibility that marketings from several states may overlap in June and result in unusually heavy marketings during a particular week.

(OVER)

Smaller supplies of cantaloups, but larger supplies of watermelons, than in 1939, are expected in June. Cantaloup supplies during June come mainly from California whereas Florida is the principal source of watermelon supplies. California ordinarily ships more cantaloups in June than in any other month of the year.

Strawberry supplies during the remainder of the season, which ends in July, may be slightly larger than in 1939. Supplies are expected to decrease seasonally during the last half of June and in July.

Market supplies of peaches during June and July probably will be considerably smaller than last year. Supplies during this period come principally from the southern States. Production in these States is nearly a third below 1939.

Meat supply outlook has not changed in recent months, and the prospect still is for supplies in June to be much larger than in 1939. Most of the increase over a year ago probably will be in pork, but larger supplies of lamb and better grade beef also are expected. Marketings of hogs, better grade cattle, and early lambs in June, are expected to be larger than they were last month.

Poultry supplies in June probably will be smaller than in 1939, but eggs may be slightly more plentiful than last June. During June, poultry supplies ordinarily increase seasonally due to heavier marketings of chickens from the spring hatch. Egg marketings, however, usually are below their May level.

Milk production generally reaches its seasonal high point in June and then declines monthly during the remainder of the year. This June, production probably will be larger than last year. Butter supplies probably will continue smaller than last June, due to reduced storage stocks. However, evaporated milk may be more plentiful than a year ago, due to record high production and record high storage stocks in recent months.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

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Volume IV, Number 14

★ JUN 25 1940 ★

June 15, 1940.

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Food supplies available for domestic consumption during the current season (July 1, 1939 to June 30, 1940) have turned out to be larger than seemed probable last fall. Each extension of the war has tended to curtail exports, and thereby added to the amounts available for use in the United States. The recent spread of war to the Mediterranean area has shut off practically all the European continental market to American farmers.

Vegetable production in areas shipping mainly in June is expected to be about 2 percent smaller than last year's large supplies, but about 12 percent above average. Source of vegetable supplies at this time of the year shifts to market gardens located near consuming areas. During the summer months these market gardens produce an important part of total vegetable supplies. Production information for all these gardens is not available, and hence it is not possible to determine with accuracy vegetable supplies during the summer months.

A record crop of sour cherries is in prospect for this year. However, total production of all varieties of cherries probably will be slightly smaller than the bumper 1939 crop, due to a reduction in sweet cherry production. Cherry season ordinarily runs from May to August.

Peach supplies, which have been relatively small to date, are expected to increase sharply next week when heavy marketings from the Southern States commence. However, supplies probably will be much smaller than last year due to a smaller crop. The Southern States are the major source of peach supplies in June and July.

Pear production this year probably will be slightly smaller than last year's large crop, but the crop is expected to be the third largest of record. About two-thirds of our annual pear supplies come from the Pacific Coast States -- California, Washington and Oregon. The Washington and Oregon crops are larger than last year, but a smaller crop is in prospect for California. First shipments of pears from the 1940 crop are expected to move to market during early July.

Apricot supplies this summer are expected to be considerably smaller than last year. The 1940 crop in California, source of most of our apricots, is the smallest since 1920, and is only about

(OVER)

one-third as large as last year. Apricots ordinarily are marketed between June and August, and supplies usually are heaviest in July.

Plum production in California, source of most plum supplies, is about the same as last year. The early plum crop is now being harvested and supplies are expected to increase seasonally. Marketing season for plums extends from May to October. Shipments from California usually are heaviest in July and August.

Lard supplies continue to pile up in cold storage, and on June 1, storage stocks reached a new high level of 284 million pounds. Current stocks are more than twice as large as the average for June 1 and for a year ago. Ordinarily, lard stocks increase during the first half of the year, but the increase this year has been unusually large.

Pork supplies, during the remainder of the 1939-40 season, which ends in September, probably will continue to be more plentiful than last year. However, the increase over 1939 levels is not expected to be as large as it was during the first 8 months of the season. During the 1940-41 season, pork supplies are expected to be below their current levels.

Poultry and egg supplies during the last half of 1940 probably won't be as plentiful as they were last year. The reduction in supplies will be primarily the result of the smaller hatch this year. Poultry supplies ordinarily increase monthly during the last half of the year and reach their peak in December. Egg marketings, however, usually decline through November.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

Three fruits have been dropped and six vegetables added to the list of commodities designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as "Surplus Commodities" under the Food Stamp Plan. The fruits removed from the list (apples, pears, and grapefruit) are no longer considered as being available in surplus quantities, because their season is nearly over. The vegetables added were designated as surplus items only in certain areas during the period June 10-30.

Items included on the list on June 15 were as follows:

BUTTER, EGGS, PORK PRODUCTS (including Lard);
DRIED PRUNES, DRIED BEANS, RAISINS;
CORN MEAL, HOMINY GRITS, RICE, WHEAT
FLOUR, WHOLE WHEAT (Graham) FLOUR;
ORANGES.

PEAS AND CABBAGE (Conn., Del., Maine, Md., Mass., N. H., N. J., N. Y.,
Pa., R. I., Vt., W. Va., Va., and Dist. Col.)

PEAS AND SPINACH (Ill., Ind., Iowa, Kans., Ky., Mich., Minn., Mo.,
Nebr., N. Dak., Ohio, S. Dak., and Wis.)

CABBAGE AND CARROTS (Ala., Ark., Fla., Ga., La., Miss., N. C., Okla.,
S. C., Tenn., and Tex.)

SNAP BEANS, BEETS, CARROTS, CABBAGE AND SPINACH (Ariz., Calif., Colo.,
Idaho, Mont., Nev., N. M., Oreg., Utah, Wash., and Wyo.)

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

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Volume IV, Number 15

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★ JUL 27 1940 ★

U. S. Department of Agriculture

July 1, 1940.

Total food supplies (supplies available for domestic consumption and exports) during the last half of 1940 probably won't be as large as last year. Last year supplies were relatively large, and considerably above average. This year's reduction, therefore, does not mean that there will be any shortages of food. On the other hand, present indications point to ample supplies of most foods compared with recent years. Furthermore, if exports continue at present low levels supplies available for use in the United States may differ very little from the amounts consumed last year.

Changes in total supplies of major foods during the last half of 1940, compared with a year ago are as follows:

Increases: Pork, better grade beef, lard, cheese, evaporated milk, summer oranges.

Decreases: Lower grade beef, poultry, eggs, canned fruits, dried fruits, canned vegetables, fresh vegetables, fresh fruits (except citrus).

No Change: Butter, wheat, lamb, all grades of beef, dried beans.

Watermelon and peach marketings are expected to reach their seasonal high point during July. Seasonal increases in supplies of cantaloups, most fruits and vegetables, and chickens also are in prospect for July. However, marketings of eggs, dairy products, and pork are expected to be below their June levels.

Melon supplies during July probably will be considerably larger than last year. This increase is expected to be due entirely to larger production of watermelons. Watermelon production in States shipping mainly in July is about 40 percent, or 12 million melons, larger than last year. Production of cantaloups for shipment in July probably will be slightly smaller than last year.

Outlook for fruit supplies has not changed in the past two weeks and it still appears that supplies won't be as large as last summer. Smaller amounts of peaches, apricots, sweet cherries, and grapes still are expected. Sour cherries and summer oranges probably will be more plentiful. Little change is in prospect for supplies of pears and California plums.

(OVER)

Market supplies of tomatoes, which were scarce in the early months of 1940, probably will continue relatively large during July and most of the summer. Supplies ordinarily increase seasonally at this time of the year. Production in the commercial tomato producing areas which market their products in July is larger than last year. Large supplies also are expected from market garden areas located close to consuming centers.

Onion supplies in July may not be much different than last year. However, supplies may be slightly smaller than in 1939, during the remainder of the year.

Potato marketings in July most likely will be slightly larger than last year. Rather heavy marketings are expected during the latter part of the month, and in early August.

Peak in butter production for 1940 appears to have been reached in June, and monthly decreases in production are in prospect during the remainder of 1940.

Pork supplies during the 1940-41 marketing season which commences this October 1 won't be as plentiful as they have been during the current season. However, they probably will be larger than supplies in most other years since 1933. The reduction in supplies is due to the fact that farmers plan to raise about 10 percent fewer pigs this coming season than they raised in the season now drawing to a close. During July, August, and September - the remaining months of this season - the outlook still is for larger pork supplies than last year.

Beef and lamb supply outlook has not changed in recent weeks. Lamb supplies this summer, and up through November, probably will continue larger than last year. Total beef supplies are not expected to differ much from last summer with larger supplies of better grade cattle offsetting smaller supplies of lower grade cattle.

Egg supplies in July may not differ much from last year, even though supplies during the last half of this year are expected to be smaller than in 1939. Most of this reduction in supplies is expected to come during the latter part of this year.

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Volume IV, Number 16

July 15, 1940

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★ AUG 3 1940 ★
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Food supplies for the season which opened July 1, are expected to be fully ample for our usual requirements. Latest report on crops, issued July 1, points to a total production of food and feed crops fully up to the average level which prevailed prior to the 1934 and 1936 droughts. Favorable growing conditions have been largely responsible for this large crop production. Yields per acre are above average, offsetting the effect of a sharply curtailed acreage.

Wheat supplies in 1940-41 probably will be about the same as they were in the season which ended two weeks ago. This year's crop isn't expected to be as big as last year's. However, the carryover of old crop wheat is larger than last year and this just about offsets the reduction in the size of the crop. Wholesale flour prices have declined in recent months and now are about the same as they were prior to the outbreak of war last August. Retail flour prices, however, still are about a cent a pound above their pre-war level. In a number of Northeastern cities, retail bread prices also are around a cent a pound above their pre-war level.

Slightly more rice, but slightly less dry beans than last season are in prospect for 1940-41. Supplies of both items are expected to be above average. The current bean and rice crops are larger than last year. But stocks of beans and rice remaining from last season are not expected to be as large as the unusually big carryovers a year ago.

Sweetpotatoes probably won't be quite as plentiful as they were in 1939-40. Last year's crop was the third largest of record. This year's crop is expected to be 5 percent smaller; and, except for 1936, the smallest crop since 1931. Sweetpotato marketings generally increase monthly until they reach their peak in October or November. They then decline during the remainder of the season.

Potato production in the late producing States, source of most potatoes marketed from September through April, is expected to be about the same as it was last year, but below average. While supplies during the remainder of the summer probably will be about 25 percent larger than in 1939, little change from 1939 is in prospect during the fall and winter months. Ordinarily potato prices decrease seasonally during the summer and fall and reach their low point when the late potato crop harvest is at its peak in October.

(Over)

Supplies of canned vegetables in 1940-41 may not differ much from those last season. Acreage planted to truck crops for canning is considerably larger than in 1939, and a bigger pack of vegetables is in prospect. However, this increase is expected to be about balanced by a smaller carryover than last year.

Beef supply outlook has changed in recent weeks and total supplies in July and August may be slightly smaller than last year. Earlier it was expected that better grade beef would be more plentiful, and that this increase would offset smaller supplies of average grade beef. Now, it appears that supplies of better grade cattle may not be as large as last summer. The outlook still is for marketings of slaughter cattle to increase monthly during the balance of the summer and the early fall.

Supplies of fresh fruit available for domestic consumption this season may be slightly larger than in 1939. The total fruit supply is expected to be slightly smaller than a year ago. However, fruit exports probably will be smaller than a year ago, and some reduction in the amount of fruit used for canning and drying appears likely.

Plentiful supplies of most vegetables and melons are in prospect for the remainder of July. Vegetable marketings ordinarily reach their season's high point in the summer months while watermelon and cantaloup shipments are heaviest in July and August, respectively. The Department does not have complete information on vegetable production in the summer months, but available information points to larger supplies than in 1939. This year's watermelon crop is considerably larger than last year. An increase in cantaloup production in States shipping in July, also is expected.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

Foods considered as "surplus" in all States on July 15, are as follows:

BUTTER, EGGS, PORK PRODUCTS (including lard);
DRIED PRUNES, RAISINS, DRIED BEANS;
CORN MEAL, HOMINY GRITS, RICE, WHEAT FLOUR, WHOLE WHEAT (Graham) FLOUR

Oranges, previously listed, have been dropped and two vegetables have been added to the list of foods designated as "surplus commodities" under the Food Stamp Plan. The two vegetables added (tomatoes and snap beans) to the five (beets, cabbage, carrots, peas, and spinach) placed on the list last month, are designated as surplus in certain States only, and for the period ending July 21.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

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Volume IV, Number 17

★ AUG 10 1940

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE August 1, 1940

Food supplies in August may be a little larger than they were last year. Supplies of dairy products, pork, lamb, lard, fresh vegetables, melons, and potatoes probably will be above their 1939 level. Smaller supplies of beef, eggs, poultry, and sweet potatoes are in prospect. Total fresh fruit supplies won't be quite as big as last year. But the amount available for domestic consumption is expected to be larger than in 1939 because of reduced exports and a smaller use in canning and drying.

Vegetable supplies in August ordinarily aren't much different than in July but fruit supplies are considerably larger. During August, marketings of cantaloups, nectarines, huckleberries, and green corn usually reach their seasonal high point. Pear shipments are much larger than in July, and only slightly below their September high point. Apple and grape marketings increase slightly, but peach marketings decline. The seasonal decrease in peach supplies this year, may be less than usual due to a small early peach crop.

Both watermelons and cantaloups probably will be more plentiful than they were last August. However, the increase in watermelon supplies most likely will be considerably larger than that in cantaloups. Watermelon marketings appear to have reached their seasonal high point and shipments are expected to decline until the season ends next month.

Beef and lamb probably will be more plentiful than during July, but smaller pork supplies are in prospect. Ordinarily cattle and lamb slaughter increases in the late summer and fall, and reaches its high point for the season in October. Hog slaughter, however, generally reaches its seasonal low point in August, and then expands during the remainder of the year. The outlook for the last half of 1940 still is for more pork and lamb, but less beef than a year ago. The increase in pork supplies is expected to occur prior to October, because supplies from October to December may not differ much from a year earlier.

Lard continues to accumulate in cold storage warehouses, and stocks on July 1, were the largest they've ever been. Stocks not only are about twice as large as they were last year, but also are double average size. While lard supplies during the remainder of 1940 probably will be more plentiful than last year, the outlook is for smaller lard supplies during most of 1941.

(Over)

Poultry and egg outlook for the last half of 1940 has not changed recently and it still appears that supplies won't be as large as they were a year ago. Egg supplies in August, however, may not differ much from last year, because most of the prospective supply reduction is expected to come the latter part of 1940. Ordinarily egg supplies in August are smaller than in July, whereas poultry supplies are larger. August also marks the start of the season for fresh killed roasting chickens.

Milk production during the late summer and fall may be at record or close to record levels if weather conditions continue favorable. Pastures are better than last year, and the number of cows has increased. Current stocks of evaporated milk and cheese are larger than last year, but stocks of butter are smaller. With a larger prospective production of dairy products this summer and fall, it appears that total supplies of cheese and evaporated milk will be considerably larger, and butter supplies slightly larger than last year.

Turkey supplies this fall and winter probably won't be quite as large as they were a year ago. Earlier this year the outlook was for larger supplies. But farmers changed their hatching intentions. A more complete report on prospective supplies will be available next month.

Supplies of canned and dried fruits for the 1940-41 season probably won't be as large as they were in 1938-39. However, if exports continue at present low levels, supplies available for domestic consumption may be larger than last season.

Orange and grapefruit supplies this winter may be close to the record large supplies of 1938. Production information is not available as yet, but the conditions of these crops is reported to be unusually good. Winter grapefruit usually commence to move to market in volume in September, and heavy winter orange shipments commence in October. Oranges marketed from August to October come from the summer crop in California. This crop is considerably larger than a year ago.

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August 15, 1940

Normal food supplies for the remainder of the year are in prospect according to "The National Food Situation," recently published by the Department. Significant facts about the food outlook in this report are as follows:

Supplies of wheat are sufficient to meet all domestic requirements and to provide surpluses for export, as also are rice supplies.

Total domestic supplies of fresh fruits during 1940-1941 probably will be slightly above those of last year, and in line with the generous yields of the two preceding seasons. Canned fruits and fruit juices, although not quite as plentiful as in 1939-40, will be available in larger quantities than in any earlier year. Vegetable supplies, both fresh and canned, probably will show small increases over last year. The potato crop is expected to be somewhat larger, although this increase will be partly offset by a smaller production of sweetpotatoes. Dry edible bean supplies will be smaller than last year, but well above the 1925-29 average.

Total meat supplies in the second half of 1940 will be larger than for any corresponding period since 1934, with pork accounting for most of the increase. Supplies during 1941 are expected to be somewhat smaller than in 1940, however, reflecting a decrease in the 1940 pig crop. For the coming twelve months the total supplies available probably will be as large as in 1939-40, and will exceed those of recent years.

Although cattle slaughter and beef output have changed relatively little in the last three years, cattle numbers have been gradually increasing. The reflection of the increasing cattle numbers may be expected in larger supplies of cattle for slaughter in 1941 and an upward trend in beef output.

Yearly production of lamb and mutton has held relatively stable in the last five years and no material changes are expected during the coming year.

Meat exports now represent only a very small proportion of total domestic production; with little prospect that exports will increase materially during the coming year, most of the United States output will be available for domestic consumption.

(OVER)

Supplies of both poultry and eggs are expected to a little smaller in the 1940-41 season than in 1939-40. Total poultry supplies are expected to be about 6 percent smaller while egg supplies may be about 2 percent less than the figure for last year. The decrease in chicken and egg production follows the fairly regular 3-year cycle, with the past two years showing an increasing production and this year the reverse. Turkey supplies are expected to be about 5 percent smaller in 1940-41 than in 1939-40, but they will continue much larger than in previous years. Turkey production has increased rapidly since 1930, with 1939-40 supplies 16 percent larger than in the preceding year.

Prospective supplies of butter and other dairy products for the coming 12 months are in line with the large supplies of recent seasons. With better than average pasture conditions this summer and plentiful feed supplies in prospect for somewhat larger herds, there is every indication that usual supplies of dairy products will be available.

Production of edible fats and oils in the United States in 1940-41 is expected to exceed all previous records. Soybean oil production probably will reach a new peak, with corn oil, peanut oil, and olive oil likely to be above average. Lard production may be slightly less than the average for the five years, 1925-29. Production of cottonseed oil will also be slightly below average.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

Foods considered as "surplus" in all States on August 15, are as follows:

DRIED PRUNES, RAISINS, DRIED BEANS;
APPLES, PEARS, ORANGES;
BUTTER, EGGS, PORK PRODUCTS (including lard);
CORN MEAL, HOMINY GRITS, RICE, WHEAT FLOUR, WHOLE WHEAT
(Graham) FLOUR

In addition to these foods some fresh vegetables and peaches have been designated as surplus in various States.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

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September 1, 1940.

September marks the beginning of the fall vegetable season and the decline in summer vegetables provided by local market gardens. Supplies of green and yellow vegetables will begin to decline seasonally while root crops increase. Local supplies will continue until frost nips them. At the same time the soft fruit season such as fresh apricots, figs, plums and peaches will begin to decline in September, while the harder fruits--apples, pears, citrus--and the nut crops will increase seasonally.

The late potato crop--this fall's and winter's supply--is about the same as last year. Although larger in the eastern States it is smaller in western States and about the same in central States. Late cabbage, cauliflower, cucumbers, and watermelons are estimated as in larger supply than a year ago. Late domestic-type cabbage supplies will be about 1/3 larger than in 1939. Late onion supplies will be about 15 percent smaller than last year. 1940 has been an unfavorable year for onion production, with a short early crop, due to adverse weather, and a continuation of short supplies into the late producing areas. The peak of fresh tomato shipments has passed but northern supplies--ample but slightly less than last year--will continue until stopped by frost. Supplies of spinach are light and will continue so until cooler weather brings on the fall crops in late September and October. Squash supplies are indicated to be only fair, suffering from lack of rain. Eggplant is reported in excess of last year, with peak movement expected in early September. Late lettuce production is slightly under a year ago but above normal.

Commercial apple supplies are smaller than last year's large crop. However, there should be ample for domestic users because a sizable proportion of the crop usually is exported and the European situation will largely stop this outlet, which will add that much to the supply for domestic use. Table grapes from California are expected in large quantities, equaling last year. The supply of raisin grapes--part of which may be shipped fresh--also is about the same as last year. The production of raisins may be somewhat smaller than a year ago but about normal, and, with prospective smaller exports, the supply for domestic use may reach last year's proportions.

(OVER)

Pear marketings from the Pacific Coast, as well as nearby areas, are in full swing, with liberal supplies--slightly above last year--in prospect. Bartletts from California will be largely finished in September, with Oregon and Washington Bartletts following immediately in heavy supply. Fall and winter pears--such as Bosc, D'Anjou, Comice and Winter Nelis--again will be plentiful, largely because of the decreased exports.

The poultry and egg situation looks somewhat less favorable. The effects of the past spring's smaller hatchings will be felt in shorter supplies of fresh eggs and young chickens. To offset this, a relatively large supply of fowls--hens--is expected during the fall months, resulting from the reduction of fairly large farm flocks. The supply of turkeys is only slightly smaller than last year's large supply.

Milk production, which has been large all during the year, continues so. Butter, cheese, and evaporated milk production are higher than a year ago, but butter stocks on August 1 were less, evaporated milk stocks also were less but above normal, and cheese stocks were the highest of record.

Fresh meat supplies are expected to continue relatively heavy during the remainder of the year, although in less ample supply than during the first half of 1940, when livestock marketings, especially hogs, were very heavy, compared to a year earlier. Seasonal increases in marketing occur during the fall months but the increase during the remainder of 1940 is not expected to be at as fast a rate as during the last half of 1939. The larger 1940 lamb crop should result in larger marketings of lamb in the last half of 1940. The better grades of beef are expected to continue in relatively heavy supply and about the same as a year ago. Hog marketings during the first half of 1940 have been heavy, due to the large 1939 pig crop. The 1940 pig crop is about 10 percent smaller than a year ago. The effects of the smaller 1940 pig crop in the form of smaller marketings are expected to occur after November or December. Lard stocks still continue exceptionally large.

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Marked price increases in meat animals which occurred the latter part of August, and in some cases in early September, seem to be temporary. During the past week or so, prices of lamb and hogs have declined and slight decreases also have occurred in cattle prices. Notwithstanding these decreases, livestock prices still are higher than they were last year. These higher-than-last-August prices appear to be mainly due to increased consumer purchasing power, which has offset the effect of larger meat supplies.

Differential between the prices of medium and top grade beef has widened considerably as the result of these recent price fluctuations. When cattle prices went up in August, price increases were most pronounced in better grade beef. But when prices moved down, price decreases were largest in average grade beef. In the early part of August, the price of 100 pounds of choice cattle at Chicago was \$2.37 higher than the price of the same amount of medium cattle. By mid-September this differential had jumped to \$3.50, nearly twice its level of a year ago.

Meat supply outlook for 1940 has not changed in recent weeks. More lamb than last year and about the same amount of beef and pork still are expected. Beef, pork, and lamb supplies also are expected to increase seasonally during the remainder of September.

Vegetable supplies during the remainder of the month and in early October, probably will continue larger than last year. Increases over 1939 levels are expected in supplies of snap beans, beets, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots and celery. Smaller supplies, however, are in prospect for onions, tomatoes, and peas. Some of the onions and cabbage now being harvested will be placed in storage for marketing during the winter months. The supply outlook for these two vegetables during the entire winter thus will be about the same as at present.

Supplies of both potatoes and sweetpotatoes for marketing this fall and winter have been increased over previous expectations by favorable weather conditions. The outlook at present is for slightly more (3 percent) potatoes, but much less (8 percent) sweetpotatoes than a year ago. Marketings of these two vegetables generally increase seasonally in September. This upward trend in sweetpotato marketings generally continues through November, but high point in potato marketings ordinarily is reached in October.

(OVER)

Cranberries probably won't be as plentiful as they were a year ago, when farmers harvested the third largest crop of record. Unfavorable weather conditions this year have curtailed production in Massachusetts, which ordinarily furnishes about two-thirds of the annual cranberry supply. Consequently the current crop is expected to be about 20 percent less than in 1939, and slightly below average. Cranberry marketings generally increase seasonally from September to November, when supplies are most plentiful. The season ordinarily ends in December.

Fruit prospects have not changed materially during the past month. The outlook still is for less apples and peaches, more pears, and about the same amount of grapes as last year. Ordinarily marketings of each of these fruits, except peaches, increase seasonally in September. The increase in apple and grape marketings generally continues through October, when marketings reach their seasonal high point. Pear marketings, however, usually reach their peak in September, and then decrease until the new crop is available in the summer.

Melon season is rapidly drawing to a close. September usually is the last month of heavy marketings of cantaloups, watermelons, and honey-ball melons. Casabas, persian melons, and honeydews, however still are marketed in quantity in October. Melon supplies during the remainder of the season probably won't differ much from a year ago.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

Foods considered as "surplus" in all States on September 15, are as follows:

DRIED PRUNES, RAISINS, DRIED BEANS;
APPLES, PEARS, ORANGES;
BUTTER, EGGS, PORK PRODUCTS (including lard);
CORN MEAL, HOMINY GRITS, RICE, WHEAT FLOUR, WHOLE WHEAT
(Graham) FLOUR

In addition to these foods, some fresh vegetables and peaches have been designated as surplus in various States.

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CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

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★ OCT 12 1940 ★

U. S. Department of Agriculture

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Apples and grapes ordinarily move to market in largest volume in October. This October supplies of grapes probably will be about the same as last year, but smaller supplies of apples are in prospect. The 1940 apple crop is about 20 percent smaller than last year. However, the reduction in supplies available for domestic consumption won't be quite as large as this in view of deduced export prospects.

Supplies of tender vegetables in October probably won't be quite as plentiful as they were last month, but larger supplies of the more hardy vegetables (onions, potatoes, etc.) are in prospect. This is the usual seasonal change for this time of the year. Total supplies of vegetables in October may be a little larger than last year. In the staple vegetables larger supplies of potatoes, cabbage but smaller supplies of onions, sweetpotatoes are expected.

Meat prices appear to have reached their fall peak and then turned down. At the end of September prices of live hogs, lamb, and lower grade cattle were back to, or lower than, the levels which prevailed in August, prior to the recent price upswing. Prices of good and choice cattle were still considerably above their early August level, but were slightly below the high point reached in early September. During the last week of September prices of lower grade cattle about the same, and prices of hogs and lamb were lower, prices of better grade cattle higher than last year.

Total meat supplies in October are expected to be larger than in September because of seasonal increases in cattle, hog and lamb slaughter. But total supplies may not differ much from last October. Little change from a year ago is expected in slaughter of cattle, hogs and lamb. Prices of beef, pork and lamb, generally decline in October as supplies increase seasonally.

Differential between prices of top and average grade eggs ordinarily widens sharply in the fall and winter months. This is due to the fact that prices of better grade eggs generally go up much more than those of average grade eggs. In May and June of this year, Grade B eggs were retailing in New York City at about 10 cents a dozen less than Grade A eggs. Last week, this differential was 19 cents. In several weeks last winter the difference was as much as 25 cents a dozen.

(OVER)

A further seasonal reduction in egg supplies is expected this month. Supplies, probably will be smaller than last year. Egg production ordinarily declines monthly during the last half of the year and reaches its seasonal low in November.

Canned vegetable supply outlook has changed in recent weeks. Instead of being larger than a year ago, it now appears that supplies of all canned vegetables will be slightly (6 percent) smaller. However, supplies probably will be about the same as average supplies the past 5 years, and the fourth largest of record. More canned peas, but less stringbeans, tomatoes, and corn than last year are in prospect. Prospective supplies of peas and stringbeans are larger, and domestic tomatoes and corn about the same as the average amounts used annually the past 5 years. If canned tomato imports from Italy continue to be restricted, total supplies of tomatoes may be below the average consumption levels of the past 5 years. These imported tomatoes ordinarily represent about 8 percent of the average annual consumption of canned tomatoes in the U.S.

Turkey supplies this year now are expected to be slightly (1 percent) larger than last year's record size crop. Earlier this year the outlook was for slightly smaller supplies. Marketings during October probably will be larger than a year ago. The turkey crop is larger and farmers are expected to market their turkeys earlier than in 1939.

Supplies of butter and other dairy products are expected to decrease seasonally in October. However, supplies probably will continue above their 1939 level. Ordinarily butter prices advance seasonally from September to late November or early December, when they reach their high point for the year.

Florida and Texas grapefruit and orange seasons are expected to open later than usual this year. Marketings of Florida grapefruit probably won't be large until the last half of this month, and heavy shipments of Texas grapefruit aren't expected until November. Florida orange shipments may not be large until the last week in October. Bulk of orange supplies in October will continue to come from California.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

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Volume IV, Number 22

U. S. Department of Agriculture

October 15, 1940

Weather conditions during the past month were quite favorable for crop production and the outlook now is that production of all crops for feed and food will be the second largest of record. Production of most foods also is expected to be above average on a per capita basis.

Unusually large supplies of citrus fruits are in prospect for this winter and spring. First report of the season on these fruits indicates that grapefruit production will be the second largest of record. A record large orange crop is expected.

Grapefruit production is expected to be about 32 percent larger than last year's freeze damaged crop. About half of this year's crop is being produced in Florida, one-third in Texas, and the remainder in California and Arizona. First shipments of Texas and Florida fruit moved to market early this month and seasonal increases in supplies are expected during the remainder of the year.

Production of oranges for marketing during the winter and spring is expected to be about 15 percent larger than a year ago. Most of this increase in supplies over last year is expected to be noticed after the first of the year because orange supplies in the fall of 1939 were relatively large until the freeze of January 1940 curtailed marketings. California and Florida each are expected to supply around 45 percent of the winter and spring oranges. The Florida season is a little late this year, and first shipments did not move to market until the early part of October. Orange marketings generally increase seasonally in November and December.

Prices of tender vegetables, such as tomatoes and string beans, start to move up at this time of the year as the source of supplies shifts from northern producing areas to the South and Far West States. Prices go up because supplies are smaller and must move longer distances to reach consuming centers. Northern areas still are shipping tender vegetables but marketings are expected to cease after the first frosts. Information on the size of vegetable crops in Southern and Far Western States for winter distribution is not available as yet. In view of a larger acreage supplies of the earliest winter vegetables may be larger than last year, provided weather conditions are favorable.

(OVER)

Harvesting of potatoes, onions, cabbage and sweetpotatoes in the late producing areas--source of fall and winter supplies of these hardy vegetables--is nearing completion. Supply prospects have not changed materially the past month. Larger supplies of potatoes and cabbage, but smaller supplies of onions and sweetpotatoes than last year, still are expected. Prices of these staples usually reach their low point for the year in October or early November, when harvesting operations are at their peak. Prices then ordinarily move up during the winter and early spring months, when storage holdings are the principal source of supply.

Total nut supplies are expected to be considerably above average but smaller than supplies in 3 of the past 5 years. Compared with last year considerably more pecans, slightly less walnuts and filberts, and much less almonds are in prospect.

Cranberry production probably will be a little larger than expected a month ago but the crop still is considerably smaller (20 percent) than last year's big supplies. Despite this reduction from a year ago, supplies will be larger than in 3 of the past 5 years. In selecting cranberries color should not be used exclusively to judge quality, because color primarily is an indication of variety. Top quality cranberries have a fresh plump appearance, a high luster and are firm.

Outlook for beef supplies has been changed slightly and it now appears that better grade cattle supplies for the remainder of 1940 and the first half of 1941 may be the same as a year ago, instead of being slightly smaller. Despite this outlook for the season as a whole, supplies of better grade cattle in recent weeks have continued relatively small. As a result prices of better grade live cattle at Chicago moved up again and reached new high points for the year. While prices of better grade dressed beef also went up slightly, they were still below the high levels to which they advanced early last month. The margin between the price of top and average quality beef widened further during the first half of October. By the middle of the month this margin was almost twice as large as a year ago.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES".

Foods considered as "surplus" in all States on October 15, are as follows:

IRISH POTATOES;
APPLES, PEARS, ORANGES;
DRIED PRUNES, RAISINS, DRIED BEANS;
BUTTER, EGGS, PORK PRODUCTS (including lard);
CORN MEAL, HOMINY GRITS, RICE, WHEAT FLOUR, WHOLE WHEAT
(Graham) FLOUR.

In addition to these foods, some fresh vegetables have been designated as surplus in various States.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

VOLUME IV, NO. 23

November 1, 1940.

Food supplies for November and the Thanksgiving holidays may not differ much from the total supplies of a year ago. Supplies of some holiday delicacies, such as turkeys, are expected to be larger than a year ago. Other foods such as cranberries may not be as plentiful. Nevertheless, total supplies of food are not expected to differ much from last year but are expected to be large compared with other recent years. Information on prospective supplies of individual foods together with retail prices a week ago in New York City relative to last year is given below. The relationship between current and 1939 retail prices at Thanksgiving may not be the same as it was last week, but these prices give some indication of how the price level already has adjusted itself to current supplies, and consumer incomes.

Turkeys. Supplies probably will be more plentiful than in any other Thanksgiving. Three factors responsible for an increase over last year are (a) a one percent increase in the turkey crop, (b) earlier marketings, and (c) production of heavier turkeys. The current turkey crop is the largest on record and about one-third larger than the average supply (1934-38).

Tom turkeys ordinarily sell at lower prices per pound than hen turkeys. This year the margin is unusually wide and wholesale prices of young hens have been running at 5 cents above the price of the heavier weight toms. A larger than usual premium this year is due to an unusually large supply of heavy turkeys. Last week retail prices of turkeys in New York were about a cent a pound lower than a year ago. Turkey prices have been below last year's level during the entire season to date.

Other poultry. Supplies of chickens are expected to be smaller than a year ago but larger supplies of fowl (poultry over 1 year old) are in prospect. Last week the retail price of fowl in New York was 2 cents a pound lower than a year ago and that of roasting chickens 3 cents higher.

Meats. Supplies of pork, lamb, and beef probably will be about the same as a year ago. Pork supplies during the coming year (October 1, 1940-September 30, 1941) are expected to be around 10 percent smaller than in the season just ended. Nevertheless pork supplies are not expected to drop below their 1939 level until after Thanksgiving. The amount of lamb marketed this month will depend upon how many lambs growers hold back for wool production next spring. At present it appears that November supplies probably will not differ much from a year ago. Last week in New York retail beef prices were from 3 to 4 cents a pound higher than a year ago, fresh and

smoked pork was 2 to 3 cents a pound lower, and lamb prices were also slightly lower.

Cranberries. Supplies probably won't be nearly as plentiful as a year ago. This year's crop is about 20 percent smaller and slightly below average. No scarcity of cranberries is expected, however, because the current crop is larger than in 3 of the 5 years prior to the present. Retail price information on cranberries is not available but wholesale prices last week were 4 cents a pound higher than a year ago.

Chestnuts. Relatively small supplies are in prospect. Most chestnuts consumed in this country are ordinarily imported, with Italy the main source of supply. Imports from Italy this year have been negligible and no imports are expected this month in view of war conditions. Limited domestic chestnut supplies will be available this year. On October 24, 55 barrels of California chestnuts were sold at auction in New York at a price of 16 cents a pound. A year ago imported chestnuts were available at auction at from 8 to 10 cents a pound.

Potatoes. Slightly (5 percent) larger supplies of white potatoes, but smaller (9 percent) supplies of sweetpotatoes than in 1939 are expected. The potato crop is about average size but the sweetpotato crop is the third smallest in the past 10 years. Retail potato prices in New York last week were 1 cent a pound less than in 1939 but sweetpotato prices were slightly higher.

Onions and cabbage. Less (13 percent) onions, but more (25 percent) cabbage than in 1939 is in prospect. These crops are the second and third largest of record. The retail price of cabbage in New York last week was 1 cent a pound lower than a year ago, but onion prices were about the same.

Tender vegetables. Supplies during the Thanksgiving holidays will depend upon weather conditions during the month. Unless weather conditions are unfavorable, supplies probably will be slightly larger than last year.

Canned vegetables. Total supplies are expected to be slightly (5 percent) smaller than last year, but above (7 percent) average. Peas probably will be more plentiful but smaller supplies of corn, string beans, and tomatoes are expected. Total vegetable supplies are the fourth largest of record.

Dairy products and eggs. More dairy products but less eggs than a year ago are in prospect. Last week the retail price of Grade A eggs in New York was 3 cents a dozen higher than a year ago and Grade B eggs were up one cent. Butter prices were one cent a pound higher.

Fresh fruits. Record crops of citrus fruits are reported but marketing controls will result in holding back some supplies. Nevertheless it is expected that more oranges, tangerines, and grapefruit will come to market this winter than during the last and most recent years. There will probably be fewer apples, due to a smaller crop, but more pears of which there is a larger supply.

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November 15, 1940

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Turkey supply outlook has changed as a result of a severe storm in important midwestern and Rocky Mountain turkey producing States and prices this month probably will be higher than seemed probable early this month. Prior to the storm supplies of turkeys in November were expected to be much more plentiful than a year ago due to a larger crop and earlier marketings. The cold wave killed many turkeys and delayed movement for Thanksgiving marketing. Reports received by the Department indicate that the total turkey crop for 1940 now will be slightly smaller than last year's crop, instead of being slightly larger. The crop, however, will be the second largest on record and considerably above average (1934-38) levels.

Wholesale prices of turkeys have advanced about 2 cents a pound the past week reflecting the storm damage. On November 14 wholesale prices of young toms weighing 14 to 18 pounds were about the same as a year ago while young hens were a cent a pound higher. Prior to the storm, wholesale prices of both toms and hens were lower than a year ago. Hen turkeys have gone up more than tom turkeys recently and hens still are selling at a much larger than usual premium above the price of heavier weight toms.

There has been no recent change in the cranberry supply situation. As pointed out in the November 1 issue supplies are expected to be considerably (20 percent) smaller than last year, but larger than in 3 of the past 5 years. In buying cranberries remember that good quality berries have a fresh plump appearance, a high luster and are firm. Shrivelled and dull looking cranberries generally are poor quality. Color of cranberries indicates variety, and should not be used as a guide to quality.

Fresh vegetables probably will be more plentiful than they were last fall and winter and prices in general may be lower than a year ago. There are two major sources of domestic vegetable supplies in the fall and winter months. Hardy vegetables - such as cabbage, onions and potatoes - come from storage warehouses in the Northern States. Tender vegetables - such as peas, string beans - come from Southern and Far Western States, where vegetables can be grown in the fall and winter. Storage stocks of the hardy vegetables, with the exception of onions and sweetpotatoes, are larger than a year ago. Supplies of tender vegetables are expected to be larger than a year ago unless weather conditions are unfavorable. Vegetable prices have advanced seasonally in recent weeks and further seasonal advances are in prospect in the fall and winter months.

(Over)

Prices of dairy products probably will be higher than they were last winter and spring. Supplies of butter, cheese and other dairy products are expected to be larger in view of prospective increases in milk production. However, an increase in consumer incomes probably will more than balance the effect of larger supplies. Wholesale prices of butter have advanced 4 to 5 cents a pound the past 2 months and a further seasonal increase is in prospect during the remainder of the year. Butter prices generally reach their high for the year in December and then decline during the following 6 months.

Meat outlook for the remainder of 1940 has not changed since the last report; supplies of beef, pork and lamb, combined and individually, probably will not differ much from a year ago. Pork supplies are expected to increase during the remainder of November and in December but the increase from October through December may be less than usual because of very heavy marketings in October. Seasonal reductions in beef and lamb supplies are in prospect. Retail meat prices generally decline seasonally during the last 2 months of the year but this year a smaller than usual decline is in prospect.

Smaller poultry and egg supplies and higher prices than last winter are in prospect. The decrease in supplies is primarily the result of the smaller hatch this spring. Poultry marketings are increasing seasonally at present and further increases are expected until December when the high point in poultry marketings for the year ordinarily is reached. Egg marketings on the other hand have decreased recently. However, in December a seasonal upturn in supplies is expected because November is generally the month when supplies are lowest and prices reach their seasonal high point.

Statements on prospective prices of foods included in the current issue are based upon information in Department of Agriculture publications available to the general public. Future issues of the Market Service will contain similar price information when the information is available.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

Foods designated as "surplus" under the Food Stamp Plan on November 15, were as follows:

IRISH POTATOES, ONIONS, CABBAGE;
APPLES, PEARS, ORANGES, GRAPEFRUIT;
DRIED PRUNES, RAISINS, DRIED BEANS;
BUTTER, EGGS, PORK PRODUCTS (including lard);
CORN MEAL, HOMINY GRITS, RICE, WHEAT FLOUR, WHOLE WHEAT
(Graham) FLOUR.

